

PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

HABITATS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

Coppice

Description

Coppice is an even-aged method used to regenerate a stand using vegetative reproduction (stump or root sprouts will form the majority of the new stand). The overstory is completely or almost completely removed, and there is typically no residual stand left except for a limited number of reserve trees or standards. This basic method results in an even-aged stand, although variations in the method can result in a two-aged or multi-aged stand.

Characteristics

- Vegetative reproduction (from stump sprouts or root suckers)
- Potentially applicable to most hardwood species
- New stand regenerates after the existing stand is harvested

Variations

- **Simple coppice:** The entire stand is harvested. This produces an even-aged stand with similar composition as the parent stand except that any conifer component will be reduced.
- **Coppice with standards:** The entire stand is harvested except for chosen standards. These can be crop trees of the same species as the stand but are often different species. This variation can be used to slowly convert a stand to a different composition, to develop a seed-origin stand, or to manage mixed stands. It can result in a two-aged stand depending on the number of residual trees.
- **Compound coppice:** A variant of the 'coppice with standards' method that incorporates two or more age classes of standards. The age classes of the standards will be multiples of the rotation age of the coppiced stand. This results in a two-aged or uneven-aged stand.

Considerations

General considerations in the application of the coppice method are:

- Spacing
- Sprouting capability
- Cutting season
- Site capability
- Competition



- Overstory composition, condition, and health

Advantages

- Simple, dependable regeneration
- Efficiency of harvesting operations
- No site preparation is needed
- No delay in regeneration
- Growing space continuously occupied
- Longer time period between entries reduces some vehicle impacts to soils

Disadvantages

- Spacing of stump sprouts may contribute to poorly formed trees and an understocked stand
- Potential for water table changes on wet sites
- Higher windthrow potential for standards or adjacent stands